

DEL MAR FEATURED RACE OF THE DAY

By Frank R. Scatoni
On Twitter @ScatoniSureShot

For more information on *Optix*, visit www.optixeq.com or on Twitter @OptixEQ

Date: 11/17/2019

Race 5: \$32K claimer for 3-year-old fillies going 6-furlongs on the main track

Post: approx. post 2:33 p.m. PST

OVERVIEW

Eight 3-year-old fillies are scheduled to go postward in this competitive \$32K claiming event contested at 6-furlongs on the main track. The morning-line favorite is a tepid 3/1, and it will be interesting to see how the betting shakes out since several of these have just taken turns beating each other. You can land on a few of these, so really it's just a matter of finding the right value in a pretty evenly matched field.

#1 TIME FOR SUZZIE (7/2) has six wins to her credit, so she knows how to find the wire. She's coming off a solid victory at this very same level and distance, having beaten a few of these in the process. She tracked the pace and finished nicely under a 5-pound weight-break, which she retains today. She's obvious right back, but I'm concerned about the rail draw. She should be running on through the lane though, so she's a must-use on all of your tickets, especially with a B+ **OptixWORKS** grade.
GRADE: A.

#2 SUPER KLAUS (8/1) looked good over this track two back when beating older \$25K/N2L foes going 7-furlongs. She was game in victory, but she did need every bit of the stretch to get her neck in front. I'm not sure the shorter distance today will suit her, but she seems usable in your exotics, since you can expect her to be running on late. GRADE: C.

#3 SQUARE PEGGY (4/1) just won a Cal-bred \$16K/N1X in wire fashion going 5.5-furlongs on turf. She'll be in front again turning for home, but she'll have to navigate an extra half-furlong, which should be her undoing, since all of her best work has come going shorter. That said, she is sharp right now if you think she can wire this bunch. GRADE: C.

#4 SWING THOUGHTS (3/1) is the morning-line favorite by dint of her very nice win over this track this summer when she won at this level, beating one of today's foes in the process. She followed that up with a turf win against \$50K foes, also here at Del Mar. You can toss her two recent races up north against much tougher older company and just focus on what she's done here. I don't see any knocks, especially with Prat hopping back on board—but I suspect she'll be shorter than her morning-line.
GRADE: A.

#5 BUSY PAYNTER (8/1) just wired \$12.5K/N2L foes at Santa Anita, setting a quick pace and never looking back as the 7/10 favorite. Before that, she showed she was no match for these types when fading to fifth against several of today's foes. She looks like a pace factor only to me. GRADE: X.

#6 NOMIZAR (6/1) just ran third to a few of these with a wide journey. She was claimed out of that race, and new trainer Ryan Hanson removes the hood on a horse who knows how to sit and pass horses—a skill that should come in handy if Square Peggy and Busy Paynter ding-dong early. Hanson will have to move

this horse up off O'Neill—not an easy thing to do—but he is a very good under-the-radar trainer who has had a quietly good year. GRADE: B.

#7 PORTAL CREEK (7/2) was run down easily last time by Time for Suzzie, and two back, she was outgamed by Swing Thoughts, so she'll need to turn the tables on those foes—but that is eminently possible since she draws outside today, while the last two times, she had to go hard from inside posts. I think the favorable draw could make the difference on a horse who knows how to win—but it is interesting that all of her four wins have come at Santa Anita. GRADE: B.

#8 SHE'S A DIME (20/1) was claimed for \$50K way back in November of last year and she hasn't been seen since. O'Neill does good work off the claim, but he doesn't often have them fully cranked off such a long layoff. That said, you'd have to think this one will at least be ready to run, since the connections will want to make some of that money back from last year. It's hard to know what to make of her and if she's matured a lot going from 2-years-old to three, but I feel I need to watch one. GRADE: C.

CONCLUSION

I do think that **#4 SWING THOUGHTS** deserves favoritism and is the one to beat, but I doubt she'll be much value in a race where a lot of these horses kind of look the same. I wish **#1 TIME FOR SUZZIE** were drawn outside, but she seems like she can keep moving forward under Cerin.

If you'd like to learn more about **OptixEQ**, visit www.optixeq.com, and for a bonus Del Mar Race of the Day analysis from **OptixEQ**, click here: <https://optixeq.com/2018-optixeq-del-mar-race-of-the-day/>